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LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that took place on 29 November 1996. The Iraqi fishing vessel Shatt al-Arab was fishing at a point five nautical miles south of Mina' al-Bakr when, at 0830 hours, it was subjected to a search by a United States frigate on station in the area. Personnel from the frigate searched all parts of the vessel and inspected its water and fuel tanks before leaving at 1030 hours.

I request your intervention with the United States of America with a view to halting its repeated actions against Iraqi civilian vessels, given that they constitute acts of aggression that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the damage caused to its property by these actions, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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